

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Please replace the paragraph appearing at page 30, line 17 to page 31, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Subsequently, the terminal hydroxyl group of the low molecular weight PPE (number averaged molecular weight: about 2,400) was capped with an ethenylbenzyl group. Into a 1-liter three-necked flask equipped with a temperature controller, stirring equipment, cooling equipment, and a dropping funnel, were added 200 g of the low molecular weight PPE (number averaged molecular weight: about 2,400), 14.51 g of chloromethylstyrene (50/50 mixture of *p*-chloromethylstyrene and *m*-chloromethylstyrene; Tokyo Kasei Kogyo Co., Ltd.), 0.818 g of tetra-*n*-butylammonium bromide, and 400 g of toluene. And the mixture was stirred until complete dissolution and heated to 75°C. The mixed solution was added dropwise with an aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (11 g of sodium hydroxide/11 g of water) over the period of 20 minutes and stirred at 75°C for additional 4 hours. Then, the solution in the flask was neutralized with a 10% aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and added with a large amount of methanol to reprecipitate the ~~ethenylbenzylated~~ ~~modified~~ ethenylbenzylated modified PPE, and the PPE was collected by filtration. The collected PPE was washed three times with a mixed solution of methanol and water at the ratio of 80 to 20, and dried under reduced pressure at 80°C for 3 hours to give an ethenylbenzylated modified PPE containing no solvent or water. The modified PPE had a number averaged molecular weight of about 2,700 as determined by gel permeation chromatography. Hereinafter, the PPE thus obtained will be referred to as "PPE-1".